



# the gay weekly

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# gay community news

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## “Sexual Preference” Added to Code

# Boston Mayor Issues Executive Order

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BOSTON — Boston's Mayor Kevin H. White fulfilled a campaign promise to the gay community last week and issued an Executive Order adding the word “sexual preference” to the city's policies regarding Affirmative Action. The Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity, dated April 12 and signed by the Mayor, went out to all department heads.

The Departmental Communication of April 12 stated:

“This is to amend the Executive Order of February 23, 1976, regarding Affirmative Action within city departments to include city policy regarding Sexual Preference. It is a supplement to the City's existing Affirmative Action policy regarding women and minorities and is issued to ensure the application of these policies to persons without regard to sexual preference.

“1. In Section IV, Goals and Timetables, add sexual preference in paragraph two.

“Immediate action must be taken to assure that salaries and benefits are the same for all employees doing essentially similar work and that sex, race, religion, age, national origin, and *sexual preference* are not factors in placing employees.”

The “Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity” reads as follows:

“As a municipal agency of the City of Boston, each department will meet all requirements of Federal Executive Orders 11246 and 11375 and of the City of Boston's Affirmative Action Program as promulgated



Mayor Kevin White

by His Honor, Kevin H. White, Mayor, on February 1, 1974.

“Each department will not permit its officials, administrators, supervisors or other employees to discriminate on the grounds of race, creed, age, sex, sexual preference, ancestry or national origin in regard to any matter pertaining to employment, including job appointment, recruitment and recruitment advertising, leave of absence, rate of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for participation in training programs or other on-the-job educational opportunities.

“All employees will be afforded equal opportunity in terms and conditions of employment without regard to sexual preference or personal life style. Any rehabilitated handicapped person, who possesses the physical and mental capacity to perform the functions required by said employment and ex-felons, shall likewise be afforded equal opportunity.

“Each department will provide equal opportunity for all qualified and qualifiable persons, and will promote the full realization of equal opportunity through positive and continuing programs within the department. This policy of equal employment opportunity will be applied to everyone, in every aspect of employment policy and practice, and in all instances where the department contracts out.”

As GCN received word of the Mayor's issuance of the order as the newspaper was going to press, GCN will have comments, reactions, and an analysis of the meaning of the Mayor's order in next week's issue.

# L.A. Police Arrest 42 at ‘Slave Auction’

LOS ANGELES — 42 Los Angeles gay men were arrested on April 11 as a force of 65 police officers and two helicopters swooped down upon a gay bar where a fund-raising “slave auction” was being held. The men were charged under an 1899 California law prohibiting “involuntary servitude.” Some 80 other men were detained by police for several hours after the raid at the Mark IV Health Club and were later released.

Bail for each of the arrested men was originally set at \$5,000, but after intervention by gay leaders and sympathetic politicians, all but four people were released on their own recognizance. The other four were released on bail of \$500. “Promoting involuntary servitude” is punishable with up to ten years in prison under California law. The Los Angeles County District Attorney must now decide whether to press or drop the charges.

At the same time, *NewsWest* reported that police officers, using a search warrant, also entered the office of Cost Plus Printing and the homes and cars of Jeanne Barney, Editors of *Drummer Magazine* and *NewsWest*. *Drummer* and the Leather Fraternity were co-sponsors of the event.

During a press conference held soon after the raid, the Los Angeles Police Department listed allegations of “mistreatment” of the “slaves.” “We are not conducting any harassment and will not conduct any in the future,” LAPD Assistant Police Chief Charles Beck told the news conference. “I believe many homosexuals would not like to be identified with this kind of activity.”

However, reaction in the gay com-

munity was swift and a community meeting was called to discuss the police action. Robert Sirico, executive director of the Gay Community Services Center (GCSC) of Hollywood described the raid as a “political move by the police department.” He said that the auction at the Mark IV was “no more unusual than a high school slave auction.”

In New York, the National Gay Task Force denounced the raid as “a police state action” and demanded the “immediate dismissal of Chief Edward Davis,” Los Angeles Police Chief. “Continuing in his (Davis') position of power is inexcusable. His statements, if directed at Black or Hispanic Americans, would long since have led to his dismissal. His continued position as Chief of Police in Los Angeles is intolerable.”

The NGTF's Bruce Voeller also stated that “slave auctions” are “widely used as spoofing carnival events in the gay community . . . If the Los Angeles Police Department and the City of Los Angeles have money to squander in such grotesque fashion as to raid a fund-raising function, perhaps taxes should be reduced in Los Angeles.”

Although the raid took place only two weeks after the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the sodomy laws, *Newsweek* magazine observed that “Homosexuals have long been a target of LAPD Chief Edward Davis, whose show of force against the Mark IV had been in the works for two months — ever since vice-squad cops spotted an ad for the auction in a gay magazine.”

(Continued on page 7)



Betty Ford, wife of President Gerald Ford, named as Woman of the Year for “Inspirational Leadership,” dances with Pearl Bailey at the awards ceremony. Outside “Stop ERA” protesters distributed a leaflet denouncing the award and asking, among other things, “Why is the wife of our president allying herself with feminist groups who by their own admission are seeking the legalization of homosexuality and the destruction of the traditional family?” Photo by Betty Lane





# news notes

## TAKING STOCK

NEW YORK — Representatives of three organizations tried a new tactic recently and attended a Stockholder's meeting of Viacom Inc., to protest that company's syndication of the television film "Born Innocent." The film, which features a brutal rape in prison done by lesbians, has been under strong attack from gay organizations. Ginny Vida, Media Coordinator of the National Gay Task Force, Kitty Cotter of the Gay Media Coalition, and Jacqueline Slivko of the Gay Teacher's Association read a statement at the meeting, which was prepared from the "shareholder's point of view to convince the company to edit the film."

Their presence was made possible by National Gay Task Force member Bill Potter, who signed his proxy over to the gay representatives.

In their statement, the spokespeople claimed that the "film will offend potential viewers and possibly have detrimental effects on the profit picture of our corporation . . . I suggest, in addition, that it would damage the public image of Viacom to distribute an unedited version of this film, inasmuch as it unfairly portrays a much maligned minority group."

Viacom executive Ralph M. Baruch rejected the suggestion, however.



Sago-palm (Metrozylon lare).

## END OF CRUSADE

CHICAGO — The "Chicago Gay Crusader," monthly newspaper from the Midwest, will cease publishing and its next issue, No. 27, will be its last. The "Gay Crusader" began publishing in 1973 but has recently come under stiff competition from the bi-monthly "Chicago Gay Life." In a statement announcing the "suspension" of the newspaper, founder and editor Michael A. Bergeron conceded that "Our people-power is not sufficient. And, of course, in all honesty, we are (to use a time-worn phrase) a little burnt-out."

All "Gay Crusader" subscribers will be offered the choice of a pro-rata refund or of using the remainder of their subscriptions as a donation for the future work of the collective with which the newspaper is associated, Oscar Wilde's Children.

## MICHAEL GREER DIES

NEW YORK — Michael Greer, gay interior decorator of many wealthy homes, including the White House, died last week in his New York Park Avenue apartment under circumstances termed as "suspicious" by the New York Medical Examiner. He was 60.

Greer was found on his bed with a black eye and body bruises, with his feet bound by a red cord. Police said at first that he had been strangled; are now reserving their opinion pending an autopsy.

## New Hampshire Notes

By Wayne April

MANCHESTER — Bernard J. McQuaid, editor-in-chief of the *Manchester Union Leader*, died Thursday night, April 15, after a brief illness. He was 67.

McQuaid became infamous among New Hampshire's gay communities with his blistering front page stories about the Gay Student Organization at the University in Durham.

With epithets like "queers," "pan-sies," and "those boys with the yellow socks," McQuaid denounced the organization and its members.

He advocated expulsion from the University of those students who were taking part in the club or any of its activities.

McQuaid worked fifty years in the newspaper business and gained prominence at the *Union Leader* after its purchase by William Loeb in the 1940s.

DURHAM — The Gay Students Organization (GSO) and the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Haverhill, Massachusetts, jointly sponsored a talk by University of N.H. professor Dr. Paul Brockleman on "The Death of God," at the University recently.

About 25 people listened to Brockleman's 30 minute talk and then participated in the question and answer period that took up the better part of two hours.

It was the first time that all three of New Hampshire's gay groups, the GSO, SAGA, and DOB, were asked to participate in a single event.

PORTSMOUTH — On Saturday, April 3, three members of the Seacoast Area Gay Alliance (SAGA) met with Reverend Wesley Burwell of North

Church to discuss the counseling of married gays.

Problems encountered in helping gay people trapped in heterosexual unions were aired for two hours. It was concluded that most of the "help" should originate with the person who is seeking it.

Burwell, who holds a Ph.D. in counseling, cautioned against urging a person to come out sexually with his/her mate. He said it is better to simply answer questions and provide information and to leave decision-making up to the individual.

"Only they know all the circumstances surrounding their particular situation, and it is ultimately up to them to do what they think should be done," said Burwell.

SAGA representatives and Burwell agreed to meet more regularly in the future.

On Friday, April 16, SAGA's first newsletter, *The Reporter*, was issued and made available at the Seaport Club at 77 Daniel Street. The two page paper displayed local news stories on its front page and organization events and an editorial on its other page.

The first issues of the paper will be free in order to encourage a wide readership. SAGA members said they hope the newsletter can be published weekly.

Some members of SAGA will be going to the Maine Gay Symposium next weekend (April 23-25) at different times for varying lengths of time. Anyone needing a ride to and from the conference please call Wayne at 436-7196 or Lila at 431-4350, or write P.O. Box 1424, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801.

## NEW NATIONAL BILL

WASHINGTON — Rep. Richard L. Ottinger of the 24th Congressional District of New York has introduced his own gay civil rights bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Westchester County Republican introduced HR.10389 on Oct. 28, 1975. The bill is identical to HR.5452, introduced by Rep. Bella Abzug and co-sponsored by 24 other representatives. The Ottinger bill has been referred to the subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

## RHODE ISLAND HELP

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A telephone referral service has recently been set up to serve the Rhode Island Gay community. The Gay Helpline number is (401) 831-9491, and is currently staffed from eight p.m. to midnight.

The function of the helpline is to provide information on where to go for legal advice, counseling agencies, gay organizations, social events and anything else pertaining to the local gay community. Co-organizer Joy Knight stressed, "The helpline is strictly a referral service. It's not for counseling."

The Helpline started about three months ago and is currently housed in a temporary location in Providence. At present, the staff is volunteer, though Knight hopes to get Federal funding once the Helpline is firmly underway. She said in its three months of operation, the Helpline has averaged about three calls a day.

The Helpline is seeking additional volunteers. Both Knight and co-organizer Raymond Lariviere are conducting training sessions on alternate Thursday evenings. The next training session will be held April 29 at 7 p.m. at 5 Junction St. in Providence. The training program runs from four to eight weeks, depending on individual progress.

## REPRESSION CONF.

BOSTON — A workshop called "Grand Jury Attacks on the Women's Movement" will be part of a two day conference on the "CIA, Intelligence, and Repression" to be held at Boston University Law School on May 7-8. The Grand Jury workshop, to be given by women from the Boston Grand Jury Project, will take place on Saturday, May 8, at 2 p.m. During the same time-slot there will be a workshop on Senate Bill #1, led by Esther Herst, director of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL).

Other conference workshops include a workshop on the CIA's history by John Marks, co-author of the *CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, a workshop on sterilization, and a workshop on the CIA and the Media by WBCN's Danny Schecter.

The conference will also feature two films and a cultural event featuring Robert Meeropol, one of the sons of the late Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Admission for the two days is \$3. For more information call 617-492-0489.

## BILL S-1 DEAD?

WASHINGTON — The *Boston Globe* reported that Senate Bill 1, the controversial reform of the Federal Criminal Code which has been under strong attack from civil liberties groups, is "dead" and that Sen. Edward Kennedy is "backing off from his support of the effort" to amend it. The *Globe* reported that White House and Justice Department officials have already conceded that chances for S-1's passage are slim and Kennedy's withdrawal may doom it totally. Kennedy, along with Sens. Philip Hart and James Abourezk, had continued supporting the bill in efforts to amend its most flagrant anti-civil rights provisions. Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana, an original "liberal amender" of the bill, withdrew support during his ill-fated presidential campaign because of strong criticism.

The Kennedy faction had already obtained concessions from conservatives, according to the *Globe*, in several areas including marijuana decriminalization, repeal of the Smith Act, and insanity defense. But opponents of the bill noted that the Kennedy compromises had not even touched upon such vital issues as S-1's making it a crime to obstruct a government function, making it a crime to make a false statement to a police officer, and giving greater federal authority for civil commitment of persons suffering from mental diseases.

## LESBIANS RAP FILM

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Gay Women of Brown University have labelled the German film *The Bitter Tears of Petra Van Kant* as "destructive . . . sensationalistic erotica (which does) not reflect Lesbianism as lived by most Lesbians . . . (but we) have to live with the consequences of its showing."

On Monday, April 19, members of the Gay Women met with the Brown University Film Society, which plans to show the film Friday, Apr. 23, to vehemently protest this showing. The film society flatly refused to cancel the showing.

Part of the advertising for the film calls it a "tale of Lesbian lovers' bickering and debasing," and adds that the film was picketed by Lesbian Feminist Liberationists during its N.Y. Film Festival showing.



United States Frigate "Constitution."

## MARYLAND LOSS

ANNAPOLIS — The *Gay Blade* reports that the Judiciary Committee of the Maryland House of Delegates defeated a gay rights bill in that state's legislature last month. The bill, H.B.10004, would have prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in employment.

Reportedly, only two members of the twenty-three person Judiciary Committee voted in favor of the bill.



# Staff Shakeup at Boston Health Service

## New Hotline Head

BOSTON — The Boston Gay Hotline continues to be in a state of flux in view of the resignation, effective April 15, of the Hotline's director Paul Telalian. Telalian had been the head of the Hotline, which provides both phone counseling and referrals, since last August. Chris Guerin, who is administrative assistant to HCHS Executive Director Rev. Don McGaw and was formerly Hotline Director and founder, will take over the post temporarily. Guerin will be resigning from his administrative assistant position as of September 1 to return to school.

Guerin indicated that he will make a concerted effort to "revitalize the Hotline." There has been no training program since September, according to Guerin, and the phones have been uncovered for a lot of the time. Staffing is now at 3/4 of capacity although Guerin notes that "many old hotline staffers are returning. People burn out and they leave," he indicated.

Guerin plans a training session on May 2 for anyone who is interested in joining the Hotline staff. Anyone who is interested in working on the Hotline should call Chris at 542-5188.

Guerin sees the Hotline's most

important function as "providing contact between gay people in the gay community and gay people outside it — married people, students, young people. It offers reassurance and some direction," he said. "It's important for people to understand that there are other gay people around and that they are doing good things and feeling good about themselves."



Chris Guerin, temporary Hotline director.

## Rev. McGaw Resigns HCHS

BOSTON — Rev. Don McGaw has announced his resignation as Executive Director of Boston's Homophile Community Health Service (HCHS). McGaw, who has been associated with the health service since January 1971 and was one of the original founders of the organization, will leave as of Sept. 1 to go into private practice.

McGaw told GCN that "I'm leaving for a lot of reasons — some of them me-centered. I feel that I've done what I needed to do. I feel that I have brought the clinic to be one of the

strongest clinics of its kind in the country. It's grown immensely. But now it's time for someone new."

McGaw indicated that he is planning to form a counseling group on the South Shore to be called Massachusetts Bay Counseling Associates after he leaves HCHS. McGaw indicated that there is very little supportive gay counseling in the South Shore area and many South Shore gays find HCHS "too far" to come for counseling. The new group will have offices in Quincy.

McGaw also plans to finish a book which he has been preparing for three years. "I want to share certain insights of mine about sexuality," he told GCN. "And especially about machoism, which I see as the pivotal problem in society."

The HCHS Board of Directors accepted McGaw's resignation "with deep regret." The board also praised McGaw's "dedication, commitment, and competence." "It is our sincere hope that he will continue his formal association with HCHS as a member of the board of directors," the statement added.

There is no word at this point as to who will succeed Rev. McGaw as executive director.



Rev. Don McGaw, of the Homophile Community Health Service

# Henrique Sweeps to P'town Victory

By Neil Miller

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. — Incumbent John Henrique swept to an easy victory in last week's special election to fill a post on the Board of Selectmen in this Cape Cod resort community. Henrique, who was primarily supported by the Portuguese community, piled up 927 votes to defeat his closest rival, Paul Christo, who received 335 votes. Christo, who came within 57 votes of defeating Henrique in the last election, was supported by a coalition of liberals and gay businesspeople in Provincetown. Betty Foss-Mayo, who called herself a "feminist candidate," came in third with 102 votes, and Ann Weld-

Harrington, the only openly gay candidate in the race, finished a disappointing fourth with 48 votes. A fifth candidate, Frank Reed, polled only 10 votes.

Paul Christo told GCN that his defeat was "an expression of political feelings towards the present Board of Selectmen." (Henrique had run as an anti-board candidate with the support of SCRAM, Serious Citizens Revolting Against Mismanagement.) "We've got to organize our own faction," Christo said. "We've got to get the liberal forces together. I'm not going to quit." The defeat was Christo's third

in his tries for elective office in Provincetown.

"The town is divided," Christo added, "and the gay community is caught in the middle. A large number of gay people voted for me but many voted for Henrique too. The 'old guard' unquestionably made a comeback in this election." Christo noted that another seat on the Board of Selectmen may become vacant soon but stated that he was undecided at this point whether to run for it.

Openly gay candidate Ann Weld-Harrington, who finished fourth, has no such reservations about running for

further office, however. While admitting that she was "a little disappointed" by her poor showing, Weld-Harrington told GCN that she is now seriously considering running for State Representative. "I'm working on getting signatures right now," Weld-Harrington said.

Weld-Harrington plans to run as an independent candidate to oppose incumbent Republican Representative Howard C. Cahoon, Jr. of Harwich. The District, called Second Barnstable and including most of the upper Cape, is one of the most conservative and Republican in the Commonwealth.

# APA Won't Take Stand on Gay Parents

WASHINGTON — At its mid-winter Council Meeting in Washington, D.C., the American Psychological Association tabled a resolution asserting that homosexual parents should not be discriminated against on the basis of sexual preference in adoption, custody, or foster cases. The decision to table the resolution with the request that it be rewritten took place after lively debate in which supporters of the resolution emphasized that the resolution simply "put teeth" into the policy on the rights of homosexuals which the Council adopted last year.

According to an article in the *APA Monitor*, opponents of the resolution raised the issue that there is no available evidence on the role modeling relationship between children and homosexual parents. For this reason, they urged the APA not to take a stand on the issue. "I fear," said Wilse Webb, an experimental psychologist, "that if the resolution were passed we would see it worded in the press as follows, 'Psychologists say gay parents make good parents.' It's inappropriate for psychologists to make statements and pass resolutions without the presentation of data on which the resolutions should be based."

However, supporters of the resolu-

tion pointed out that it was primarily a statement of rights and not a judgment on the "health" of a particular group.

An amendment stating that "There is no evidence . . . that homosexuality per se implies impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities," also failed to

satisfy opponents who mocked the "wooly reasoning and porous language" of the resolution.

One psychologist, clinical psychologist George Albee, even introduced a satirical word change into the resolution, stating "There is no evidence that baldness per se implies impairment of

judgment . . . therefore, baldness of possible foster or adoptive parents should be only one of the many factors considered in determining suitability."

Following the Albee comment, the Council voted to table the resolution with the understanding that it be rewritten.

## Gay OK on Staten Island Ferry

NEW YORK — Gay New Yorkers will be able to embrace and/or hold hands in the future on the Staten Island Ferry without fear of harassment since the Gay Activists Alliance of New York succeeded in obtaining a formal policy statement from the New York City Transportation Administration's Department of Marine and Aviation. The statement bans discrimination against homosexuals by department officials. At the urging of GAA, Commissioner Vito J. Fossella issued a memorandum March 30 banning discrimination against all persons, "regardless of their sexual orientation."

The Marine & Aviation Department memorandum grew out of an incident last October 13 in which Mr. Michael Merry, a member of the Gay Activists

Alliance, was threatened with arrest for embracing and holding hands with a male friend while they were passengers on the Staten Island Ferry. At Mr. Merry's request, the Gay Activists Alliance became involved in the case with the aim of taking advantage of the incident to test the willingness of the Department of Marine & Aviation to issue and circulate to its police staff a clearly worded statement banning any discrimination against homosexuals. GAA considers Commissioner Fossella's memorandum to have met that criterion.

In announcing this victory for the gay rights movement in New York City, GAA President David Thorstad today noted: "The events leading up to this memorandum, as well as the

issuing of the memorandum itself, clearly demonstrate two things: First, that homosexuals in this city face constant risks of discrimination and harassment that heterosexuals never face. And second, that if homosexuals need protection against harassment by police for merely holding hands or kissing on the Staten Island Ferry, how much more do we need a gay civil rights bill that would comprehensively ban discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, and public accommodations! The Gay Activists Alliance calls upon the City Council to follow Commissioner Fossella's example and pass now the bill before it which would extend equal rights to New York City's 1,000,000 homosexual residents."





## EDITORIAL

A police officer's duty, it is popularly alleged, includes protecting the safety and welfare of all citizens. Police officers, upon assuming their badges, swear to a Hippocratic-like oath, vowing to uphold the Constitution, and protect the rights of the citizenry.

Gay people should be justifiably alarmed, therefore, by the cartoon that appears in this month's *Pax Centurion*, the official publication of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA). BPPA cartoonist Larry Flanagan has depicted gay people in an ugly and highly insulting manner, stating "There is some hope left for the U.S. Supreme Court," ostensibly based on their March 29 "affirma-

tion" of state sodomy laws. that he does not get along well, to say that matter, is Mayor Kevin White. But the point is that neither White nor diGrazia is charged with personally protecting the safety of the people who live in and work in the city — it is the 2400 Boston patrolmen to whom our lives are entrusted.

And not terribly safely entrusted at that. On October 4, this newspaper pointed out that the murders of five gay men have gone unsolved by the Boston Police. Since then, there has been at least one other gay murder. In addition, gays continue to be the victims of vicious assaults and robberies, particularly in the Back Bay and Beacon Hill sections of the city, and the police do not appear to be

going.

It is of little comfort to know that Rep. Elaine Noble has persuaded Mayor White to issue an order banning discrimination against gay people in city employment. While having a gay member of the Human Rights Commission would certainly enable White to enhance his (and Noble's) image in certain quarters, it is doubtful that it would catalyze the city's police officers into doing an about-face on their very clear homophobic positions as enunciated in *Pax Centurion*.

The single most important step for the police commissioner to take would be the appointment of an openly gay, highly placed official in his department. The new sheriff of San Francisco did that just a few weeks ago, naming Rudi Cox as a deputy sheriff, and at the same time urging closeted members of the police force to "come out." In addition, Mr. diGrazia should be aware that anti-discrimination policies protecting the employment rights of gay police officers are already in effect in dozens of municipal and two state jurisdictions across the country. "Affirmative action," which is an employment policy that the commissioner has, to his credit, aimed tirelessly to maintain, is more exclusionary than affirmative so long as there are residents of the city for whom non-protection by the police is not the exception but the rule.

The commissioner and the mayor can no longer shrug off the words and deeds of the BPPA as union rhetoric. When the lives and safety of any of the city's residents are ignored, Boston's leaders must not be allowed to portray apathy or plead ignorance.

There is some hope left  
for the U.S. Court!



tion" of state sodomy laws.

It is no wonder that gay people resent paying taxes. How can the city of Boston accept money from thousands of gay citizens on one hand, while the city's police officers so blatantly — even proudly — display their reprehensible ignorance and prejudice through manifestations of this sort? The police claim that they are "out on the street" to protect the well-being of the citizens. Which citizens? Only those who are happily married with three kids and a dog?

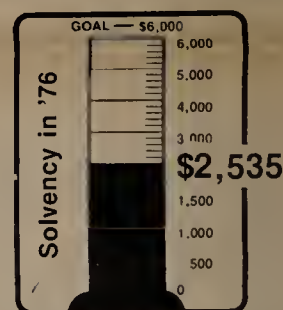
Police Commissioner Robert J. diGrazia is fond of defending his record before liberal activists by pointing out

responding.

What are the police doing? For one thing, they have been spending countless hours in marked (and unmarked) cars patrolling "The Block" section of the Back Bay to threaten gay men with the charge of "common night walking." Surely one-third of the sixty police officers who converged upon two Bay Village bars recently would have been sufficient to do the job. And finally, undercover officers have been disturbingly diligent in their pursuit of the type of non-criminal who was arrested on November 25 at the Jolar Cinema on Washington Street.

And that is where the money is

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the least, with the BPPA, especially its director, Chester Broderick. So, for

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# FORUM

By Kemeys Goethe

The issue of pederasty was confronted here April 4 at a Gay Liberation Forum entitled "Of Men and Boys: Pederasty and the Age of Consent." A panel of three pederasts discussed their lifestyles, the law as it relates to pederasty, and the relationship between pederasts and the rest of the gay movement. Panelists included Bob Burdick, a former teacher and now member of the Mattachine Society; William P. Braddock, who came out three years ago on the Op-Ed page of the *New York Times* as the gay father of two children; and J. Z. Eglinton, author of *Greek Love*, the classic study of boy-love.

Bob Burdick spoke with candor and unconcealed pride about some relationships he has had with boys. These boys saw in him qualities worth emulating. He saw in them qualities worth developing. The relationships were based on love, not exploitation. And, "as in all love affairs, boy-love often culminates in a sexual relation; but not always."

Three years ago Burdick contributed an article on pederasty to the *Mattachine Times*. The article was quietly refused, presumably because pederasty was deemed too explosive an issue for a gay publication.

William P. Braddock listed three issues he thought must be dealt with in any relationship, whatever the sexes and ages involved: love, honesty, and responsibility. The last is particularly relevant when there is a great age difference. A relationship between a boy and older man can be very rewarding to both, but it is a particularly delicate relationship and requires a great sense of responsibility on the part of the man if it is to live up to its promise.

On the age of consent, Braddock said, "I consented to anything once I found someone who consented to what I



# LETTERS

## emily

Dear Editor:

In re. to Tom Myles' article, "Emily Dickinson as Lover and Artist" —

For the record, any analysis of Emily Dickinson's life and writings should include Rebecca Patterson's *Riddle of Emily Dickinson*, for Rebecca Patterson was noted as the Emily Dickinson scholar even amongst circles which disagreed with her affirmation of Emily's lesbianism.

There is more evidence which promotes Emily Dickinson as a lesbian than there is information — or more appropriately — speculation, which attempts to fabricate heterosexual involvements. And while it is true that Emily had "feelings" for Susan Gilbert, her primary relationship was with a woman by the name of Kate Scott whom she met through Susan Gilbert.

Historical/biographical data, Emily's letters and poems demonstrate that the proliferation of love poems between 1859-1862 coincides with her involvement with Kate Scott, a "tall, handsome" woman whose husbands conveniently died, leaving her with enough money to travel with her female companions — one of whom was commonly known as "Frank." Since Kate was from Europe, traveled over a body of water to see Emily, and came in a direction that was east of Emily's bedroom window — it is hardly surprising that many of Emily's love poems deal with the "promises of the east," bodies of water, jewel boxes and pearls — two metaphors which can hardly be construed as comparable to the male anatomy.

It should also be noted that Kate came in the early spring and left Emily in the early fall — the months of which consistently appear in Emily's poems either as fulfillments of promises or "deaths." Since Kate usually visited at a time when she was "in mourning" for the deaths of husbands, she appeared in black. Emily, who was fond of comparing herself to Kate since Emily felt she was "demure" and unattractive next to Kate — wore white after they "married."

I wish I could include more specific data, but my notes are in Kansas — in an area where Rebecca Patterson once taught a seminar on Emily Dickinson. But to share with you — I remember the first class of Patterson's seminar. We were approximately 15 students reading a poem which was obviously one of Emily's "dyke" poems — one of her "You'll be sorry you hurt me" poems, and I laughed. R. Patterson said, "A friend of mine who teaches this course in New York tells me that the only people who laugh at this poem are lesbians," — a statement which made me laugh all the harder.

For more information on Emily Dickinson read Rebecca Patterson's *Riddle of Emily Dickinson* and/or see and edition of Emily's complete works. The books you suggested in your article are part of a pattern which made a complete edition so hard to come by until recently. And if a reader wants to pursue how blatant the information really is, you might try tracking down a statement that was made to one of Emily's first female biographers, which said in essence, "We've done great injustice to Emily. You must set the record straight," — (italics mine).

Janine Bernier

## cool down

To the staff of the Gay Community News:

The editorial that appeared in *Gay Community News* (dated 17 April 1976) raised several issues for me concerning the policies and practices of the staff. The two major issues concern first, the content of the editorial and secondly, the basis on which editorial material is published in GCN.

I understand that the material that was published was brought to GCN, read by the staff, passed as editorial and printed. The editorial is plagued by a vagueness of analysis and it appears that GCN did nothing to verify the statements that appear in it. To me this is irresponsible journalism. On the surface it may seem like an innocent plea for support of the Boston Gay Hotline (support which a hotline would welcome); however, it is a disservice to the community to present simplistic and incomplete analysis of a situation. All who desire a forum for their opinions about such a community issue should have it through a medium like GCN; however, it should be identified as such and not put forth as editorial.

The issue of a full-service gay hotline in Boston is an important one, and there is a group of people who would like to provide one. In the future I hope that GCN can find time and space for a presentation of the complex problems concerning this issue. Whether such a service can be provided in its present context is doubtful in my opinion, and as an expression of that I have tendered my resignation as Director of Boston Gay Hotline as of 15 April 1976.

Yes, the Gay community should be concerned over this issue and give support in an enlightened atmosphere.

In Gay struggle,  
Paul Tellalian



## g.p.g.

Dear GCN —

I have been reading your guide to New England and loving it! I've been out for two years and in the city for five, but the information in the guide fills in some *big gaps* in my knowledge of the area.

I especially love the feature articles: Lesbian Foresisters, The Astrology Guide, Herstorical Calendar, etc.!

Thank you so much! For all your painstaking work!!

Love

Alice Mitchell

## GCN BENEFIT

**A benefit for GCN will be held at the Elephant Room on Tuesday, May 25, from 8:00 to 2:00. Brandy Lee and Jade & Sarsaparilla will be the featured performers. \$3.00 donation will include a free drink. Door prizes (including a free teledate film) will also be awarded.**

wanted to do." The issue is force or coercion, *not* age of consent. If a person has consented, age is irrelevant. Society continues to view children as asexual. Eliminating age of consent laws would help destigmatize pederasty. But, perhaps more importantly, it would be the first step in sexual liberation for that most oppressed of minorities: children.

J. Z. Eglinton discussed Paul Goodman's concept of "teacher eros." Many men are turned on by being role models to boys. Pederasty simply means expressing the sexual feelings inevitably involved in such a relationship.

Eglinton criticized the early and modern gay movement for refusing to deal honestly with the issue of pederasty. Ironically, the attitude of much of the gay movement toward pederasty is similar to that of many civil libertarians towards gay rights. That is, pederasty is seen as an embarrassing diversion.

In the discussion that followed, Eglinton was criticized by a number of people for his slighting remarks about S&M devotees. Aside from this, there was surprising consensus among members of the audience as to the validity of the points made. The Gay Activists Alliance was one of the first gay groups to take a position in favor of abolishing all age of consent laws.

The Gay Liberation Forum is a monthly series of talks and panel discussions sponsored by the Gay Activists Alliance. This particular forum was of special interest to gay men, but most are oriented to lesbians and gay men.. The next will be a panel discussion of the implications of Senate Bill S.1 for gay people. It will be held May 2, 8:30 p.m. at the Church of the Beloved Disciple at 14th Street and 9th

## gay fed

Dear GCN:

I was upset to read David Brill's article "Civil Service Can Bar 'Flaunting' Gays" in the April 10 GCN. Mr. Brill's piece was apparently based entirely on a secondary source, the *Federal Employee News Digest*, and was not written with any consultation with any other sources or experts. As a result, Mr. Brill's article is completely misleading and will cause much unnecessary concern among gay activists and particularly among openly gay federal employees.

The critical point that Mr. Brill failed to understand was that the case involving the dismissal of an openly gay federal employee in Seattle was begun and decided in the lower federal court *before* the Civil Service Commission abandoned its anti-gay policies last July 3. In deciding the case against the gay activist, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit explicitly noted that it had not considered any possible impact of the revised guidelines but had considered only the original policies in effect at the time of the earlier court decision. Therefore, however objectionable the Appeals Court decision may have been on its own terms, it is irrelevant to the current situation for gay federal employees.

But as the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Therefore, it might be of some interest to your readers that I have been openly gay on my federal job in Washington for the past two years. A recent issue of the *Washingtonian* magazine included a story on Washington's gay life which identified me both as President of the Gay Activists Alliance of Washington and as an economist with the U.S. Department of Labor. At no time have I suffered the least harassment for my sexual orientation or for my activism.

Ironically enough, federal civilian employees today already enjoy much of the kind of job protection that the Abzug bill would extend to the rest of the nation. For this freedom we must be grateful to many stalwart civil libertarians and long-time gay rights leaders — especially (if you'll pardon my provincialism) Washington's own Dr. Franklin E. Kameny. I call upon my gay sisters and brothers in the federal civil service to take leadership roles to secure for other gays the protection we have now.

Sincerely,

Craig Howell

[David Brill replies: I stand corrected, if necessary. However, since the entire matter was corroborated by the executive director of the National Gay Task Force, I do not feel that the article "was based entirely on a secondary source."]

## in prison

Mr. Neil Miller:

I have received a copy of your *Gay Community News*. It was refreshing to read and realize that the gay world was still very much in focus. However, I have read several articles concerning the bigotry that lies in our society. Yet it is so minor when one looks at a gay in these correctional institutions. For prejudiced actions are multiplied in ten fold for those who serve time as gay convicts.

It is not only the administrative and custodial departments that act out prejudiced feelings toward the gay inmate, but as well, the inmate who is essentially heterosexual. The inmate who lacks female companionship and uses or abuses the homosexual for his or her intermediate pleasures.

Forced sex as well as denial of participation in prison activities are, at times, depressive problems for the gays. True, that it is not so bad that suicidal attempts occur so freely. Yet so many factors go against the gay inmate, that he or she would probably do more time (with less consideration for parole), watched more carefully, given less opportunity for rehabilitative services offered and constantly the center of sex objects for others to abuse.

Some gays say that there are many advantages for a gay in correctional institutions. For there are many men to choose from. Yet the fact must be accepted, that not the majority of heterosexuals respect homosexual beliefs in any society. And even less in a frustrated prison society. So physical acceptance may be accepted (and only temporarily); it is very much the abuse for homosexuals in the confined walls and fences of correctional institutions.

I am writing this letter in hopes that you, the written voice, may in some way, tell the free gay world, that your brothers and sisters are being much more discriminated against and in such a consistency that at times it can be almost unbearable. It should also be pointed out that many, many gays are doing time because these same gays are the subject of societies' laws banning the participation of freedom to express one's sexual preference. Yet they have practiced these preferences without guilt of doing so. Even though the consequences can be five or ten years of lost freedom.

Again, it was nice to read a gay newspaper and to know that the gay world is still in focus of doing what comes naturally. And that is being free to express one's beliefs. I sincerely hope that we gays will rise to the discriminative challenge that will no doubt come our way time and time again. As for the gays in the prisons around the country, they will only have to show more stability in the much needed changes in our corrections.

Sincerely Yours,

J. Dante Metcalf 034020

President

U.S.G.C. (Union Correctional  
Gay Caucus)

*Letters to the Editor should be 200 words or less. All letters submitted for publication must be signed; names will be withheld upon request. GCN retains the right to edit all letters.*



# NEW YORK REVELATIONS

By Tony Russo

NEW YORK — The "movement-oriented" Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee (CSLD) has obtained a permit to march up Avenue of the Americas for Gay Pride Day, Sunday, June 27. This new development leaves the "bar-oriented" CSLD committee without a permit to march down Fifth Avenue as they had originally planned. If a permit is not issued to the group, it is possible that the problem of having two marches on the same day may be settled. According to the mayor's office, however, it is possible that two permits may be issued. The mayor's office did, however, say that it would not issue a permit to the "bar-oriented" committee for a "street fair" which would have occurred at the same time and place that the marchers would be gathering for the movement oriented march. In that sense at least the two marches will not meet.

The "movement-oriented" CSLD Committee has decided to extend Gay Pride Week to July 11, when a demonstration directed at repeal of sodomy laws and passage of gay rights legislation is held. The demonstration will coincide with the Democratic National Convention and will be held at Union Square in Manhattan.

The National Coalition of Gay Activists (NCGA) is presently organizing other demonstrations to be held at the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention, which will be held in Kansas City August 16-19. The group is currently holding benefits around New York City to help raise money for the demonstrations. Fund-raisers are also being considered for other cities. The group is also selling pink triangle buttons for \$1 per button. The pink triangle was the symbol used during World War II to identify homosexuals as victims to be eliminated before entrance into gas chambers and other murderous enclosures. Pink triangles can be ordered through NCGA at: P.O. Box A-711

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## A Gay Person's Guide To New England



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The 1976 edition, "A Gay Person's Guide to New England." Available at \$3.75 from finer bookstores, gay bars, baths and organizations throughout New England and the World. By mail, \$4.00 postpaid from GPG, Dept. D3, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108. Copies sent in plain brown envelope. Make cheque payable to "GCN."

The New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations (NYSCGO) will be meeting in Syracuse for its quarterly conference this weekend. The group, in addition to spending much of its time on New York State legislation, is the sponsor of the demonstration to be held at Union Square on July 11. To help plan for the July 11 demonstra-

tion the group is currently meeting the last Friday of each month at the Church of the Beloved Disciple at 348 West 14th Street in Manhattan.

Mattachine Society is expanding its counseling center to include consciousness raising, peer counseling, and group therapies. Those who would like to apply for training as a counselor

they should contact Mattachine at 59 Christopher Street before April 30.

On Friday, April 30, there will be a benefit dance for the "movement-oriented" Christopher Street Liberation Day March. It will be held at the Church of the Beloved Disciple and will start at 10 p.m. There will be a \$2 donation.

## Classifieds Net N.Y. Police 5 Hustlers

NEW YORK — New York Police undercover agents arrested five male prostitutes recently after luring them to an undisclosed West Side hotel. The police officers, responding to classified advertisements in *The Advocate*, arrested the men between 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the evening. The *New York Times* reported that the police stated that the men offered sex at prices varying from \$45 to \$80.

Police Inspector Robert Colangelo, head of the public morals division, told the *Times* that the arrests had been made after complaints by citizens. Colangelo added that such advertising is frequently related to extortion, blackmail, and crimes of violence.

The Gay Activists Alliance of New York denounced the police action as a "denial of their (the men's) civil

rights." Ira Glasser of the New York Civil Liberties Union called the police guilty of "entrapment" and noted that the arrests came soon after the Supreme Court decision on the sodomy laws.

"This is not victimless crime," said Glasser. "It is a crime without a complainant. Adultery is still on the books as a sex crime in New York State. Why don't the police go after that?"

The police defended their actions on the basis of non-discrimination. "We've had complaints that by concentrating on female prostitutes instead of the men, we were being sexist," Inspector Colangelo said. He also asserted that "the poor homosexuals are really at the mercy of these

guys."

While the police were moving on the prostitutes, the New York State Legislature was considering a bill proposed by State Senator Manfred Ohrenstein which would provide up to 90 day sentence for first conviction for prostitution. At a recent meeting the Gay Activists Alliance strongly criticized the bill as "a green light to the police to embark on harassment expeditions against ordinary citizens."

The GAA also accused the bill's sponsor, Senator Ohrenstein, of "capitulating to unclean pressures to 'clean up' New York City for the Democratic Party's National Convention . . . If the authorities want a hot summer in New York City, passing this bill may be a good way to get it."

When a new gay bar opens up, the rumors begin to fly. So, for the true and false of it, here's some

# STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE GAY ELEPHANT

**Are you sure The Elephant Room is a gay bar? I heard it was going straight.** The Elephant Room is definitely a gay bar, and it's going to stay gay. Believe us.

**Isn't The Elephant Room just a room in the back of Mirage?** No. The Elephant Room is in the same building as Mirage, but it's a totally separate bar, with its own entrance, its own rest rooms, and a solid wall separating it from Mirage.

**Can people come through Mirage into The Elephant Room?** No. They would have to come through The Elephant Room entrance, and pay a separate admission charge to The Elephant Room doorman.

**Isn't there trouble at the end of the night between straight people leaving Mirage and gay people leaving The Elephant Room?** No, we've never had any trouble. In fact, before The Elephant Room opened, many gay couples went to Mirage to dance, and several gay groups held parties there. It's never been a problem.

**Isn't The Elephant Room staff mostly straight people?** No. All The Elephant Room employees are gay.

**Do the owners of The Elephant Room want to help the gay community, or are they just out to get our money?** We hope to make a significant contribution to the gay community. First, by making The Elephant Room a tasteful, clean, friendly, relaxing place to go. And by providing jobs for the gays who work there.

Second, by doing what we can to further gay causes. For example, in the three weeks we've been open, we've spent nearly a thousand dollars in gay media. (An ad this size in GCN is not cheap.) We've underwritten the entire cost of Closet Space, the gay news show on WCAS Radio, 740 AM, Sunday mornings at 10:30. And we've scheduled benefits for several gay groups. So if The Elephant Room does well, the entire gay community gains.

**Do I have to pay a membership fee?**

Certainly not. No matter what anyone tells you, there are no private clubs in Boston. That's the law. Membership fees are, in our opinion, a crock of elephant doo-dah.

**Is there dancing? Is there a quiet place to sit down and talk?** Both. You can dance to the latest disco music on our superb sound system. Or you can sit down in a real bentwood chair, at a butcher block table.

**Is it expensive?** Not at all. Depending on what you drink and when you come, an evening at The Elephant Room will cost you roughly the same as an evening at 1270. Give or take a dollar.

**Where will I find a parking space?** There's a large parking lot at our front door. When you come to The Elephant Room, you can park there for \$1 or less.

**When are you open?** 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., seven nights a week.

**What do I get now that I've read all this?** Bring this ad and we'll give you a drink for half-price. Limit one per person, please.

**Have any other questions?** Call us at 266-7081. You'll find that we're not just another gay bar. Honest.

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# March on Racism Postponement — One View

**BOSTON** — On Wednesday, organizers for the April 24 March Against Racism in Boston decided to "postpone" the march, citing a "new objective situation" in which they could not guarantee the safety of the marchers. GCN spoke with Ken Withers, President of the Northeastern University Gay Student Organization and one of the organizers of the gay contingent scheduled to participate in the march.

**GCN: Was this an easy decision?**

**KW:** No, this represented a major setback for the entire civil rights movement. Boston is the center of the civil rights movement and not having a demonstration is a victory for the anti-busing people.

**GCN: Why was there so much confusion about the location of the gay contingent?**

**KW:** Originally we had projected to have a feeder march start at Carter Playground in the South End and move up Columbus Avenue to join the main march near the NAACP office. However, it became evident that certain ultra-left black militants, who were opposed to the demonstration as a whole and felt it was a "liberal sell-out," might actually try to attack isolated groups such as the gay contingent. So we changed our plans and decided to become a part of the entire march with, of course, our own banners. We just couldn't guarantee the safety of people unless they were in the march as a whole.

**GCN: Why couldn't the Boston Police guarantee the safety of the entire march?**

**KW:** Not only were the police unwill-

ing to guarantee the safety of the marchers but there is evidence that the police were involved in actually trying to break up the march. When we first were negotiating with police and city officials for permits and protection, they were very friendly and offered to help in any way they could. However, after it became evident that the march would be very large and effective, and that there could be provocateurs, the police started saying things like "You know if you have any trouble inside the demonstration it's your problem."

**GCN: What about violence from the outside, from ROAR or the South Boston Marshalls?**

**KW:** Of course that was a major consideration but it was obvious that small groups of nationalist militants could try to provoke a confrontation either with the police or with white liberals involved in the march. Recent FBI revelations have proven especially in Chicago that often the police or the FBI have formed little ultra-left groups specifically for this purpose: to discredit an otherwise peaceful march. We weren't going to take any chances.

**GCN: It sounds more like internal problems and politics caused the march to be postponed and not the racist climate in the city.**

**KW:** NO! Unless of course you consider the FBI or the Boston Police Department part of the black community. The Boston Police Department, according to evidence that marchers have, actually circulated memos to their members and friends claiming that the march organizers were really part of the confrontationist group, the Committee Against Racism (CAR).

They were trying to create a climate of mistrust. Some people within the black community played along accusing march organizers like Mac Warren of plotting to assassinate Kevin White (Mayor of Boston). They later had to back down from this ludicrous charge but that didn't stop rumors.

**GCN: But how would a few groups have affected the entire march?**

**KW:** Normally it wouldn't and we have experienced this sort of activity in the past. In any other situation, if the bulk of community leaders and responsible organizations were behind the march, then the provocateurs would be isolated with no consequence. This was the case up until 48 hours ago. However, with the beating of a white man from Jamaica Plain, the situation radically changed. To a person, black community officials either withdrew their support from the march or urged that the Coalition cancel it, claiming that the situation was now too hot to

handle.

**GCN: What about Mayor White's March Against Violence (scheduled for Friday, April 23)?**

**KW:** This is a very cynical maneuver by Kevin White. How can he, with a straight face, have a march against violence when he, Louise Day Hicks, and other officials in Boston are to blame for the tense situation we now have?

**GCN: How are gay people affected by all of this?**

**KW:** The anti-busing movement is not only anti-black, anti-progress, anti-women, but also anti-gay. The graffiti in South Boston is not something like "We don't want buses" but it's "Niggers suck — Bus them back to Africa." Don't tell me that's not racist and homophobic. If there is a defeat handed to the black community, the gay community will merely be a fly-speck in the way of ROAR's march forward to 1954.

## Presbyterian Minister Protests

**CHICAGO** — The Rev. David B. Sindt, National Coordinator of the Presbyterian Gay Caucus, has filed a formal complaint with the National General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church against the Presbytery of Chicago, for placing him on "inactive status", and denying him "ecclesiastical recognition for his work as a minister."

The Rev. Sindt cites this action as "arbitrary and prejudicial," especially since he had gotten permission to "labor outside the bounds of the presbytery" in June 1975. In November, however, this permission was rescinded, but no reason was given. Church law requires that a reason be given.

Last February, the Chicago Presbytery said its November action was because it could "see no grounds for Rev. Sindt . . . to labor in a volunteer position with an organization (Presbyterian Gay Caucus) which has no ecclesiastical status or recognition." Rev. Sindt counters that the same might be said of such ministries as sightless piano tuner and teacher of Islamic studies at the American University of Cairo, Egypt, both authorized and permitted by the same Chicago Presbytery.

Members of the ruling body (Session) of the church at which the Rev. Sindt worships supported his complaint, stating it "deplored the tendency to treat the homosexual commun-

ity as outcasts and affirms the responsibility of the church to minister to this definite minority." The Session of the church where his parents worship also affirmed its support in a letter to him March 30, pointing out that "It seems to us that the real issue involved is not the kind of work you are engaged in, but rather your homosexuality."

## Calif. Police

(Continued from page 1)

*Newsweek* also painted an extremely lurid description of the affair, quoting in depth the comments of one undercover agent who participated in the raid. "According to the undercover officer who attended the auction, the Mark IV slaves were distinctly different (from a harmless fund-raising event). After paying his \$5 admission fee, he (the officer) entered a club filled with all the paraphernalia of sado-masochism. There was a small-scale jail, complete with chains and stocks. Over thirty cubicles were filled with male couples, and visitors could rent paddles and leather harnesses for \$2 and hour."

On the other hand, *Newsweek* also quoted one of the "slaves," to add balance to the account. "Rocky Neptune, 24, who had been purchased for \$40 as the Mark IV raid began, complained that the LAPD's new plastic handcuffs cut his hands and that the cops hadn't allowed their captives, who were full of beer, to go to the bathroom," *Newsweek* reported. "Those," he said, "were the only signs of sadism that I saw all evening."

## Saxe Judge Denies 2 Motions

**BOSTON** — Judge Walter McLaughlin recently ruled on two defense motions in the Susan Saxe case. One motion called for the dismissal of the case due to extensive pre-trial publicity. While McLaughlin refused to dismiss the case, he agreed to question the potential jurors individually instead of as a group. The Judge also stated that he would consider asking the jurors questions submitted to him by the defense and the prosecution. He also said that during the proceedings he might be willing to let the lawyers themselves ask the jurors questions. Under Massachusetts law, unlike other states, lawyers do not have the right to question potential jurors.

Judge McLaughlin also granted the

defense the right to challenge 32 potential jurors and gave the government the right to challenge 16. The potential juror pool is 800.

McLaughlin also denied a second defense motion to dismiss the charges because of the overwhelmingly male composition of the grand jury which indicted Saxe.

The next pretrial hearing in the case, originally scheduled for April 30, has been changed to Monday, May 3, at 10 a.m.

The trial, in which Saxe is charged with first degree murder out of charges stemming from a 1970 robbery at the State Street Bank and Trust Company in Brighton, is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 17 in Suffolk Superior Court here.

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# Travel: Out of the Closet

By Jay Aldrich

I don't know how many of you out there have experienced traveling with an exclusively gay group, but I am sure there are quite a few who have — or have always wanted to, but were skeptical. Well gang, it's unforgettable! I have been fortunate enough to participate in a number of these tours and I would like to pass on some thoughts to those of you who think you might like to try one, and who to go to for further information.

You do have to be on the lookout for the shabby tour agencies, or exclusive gay hotels. You sometimes find them advertised in the back of gay publications. It's best to send for their brochure, and read it over carefully; even then you can't be too sure. Take, for example, an advertisement for a large hotel in Florida recently. The brochure pictures are fantastic, but when you arrive at the hotel, BAD NEWS; not at all what it was drummed up to be. Of course, you never know until you participate in a tour or stay at the hotel, or check the details with friends who may have gone on "special trips."

You may wonder, as I did, what type of people participate in these tours and what is the age group. Well, all types of people go, and the *average* age of tour members is usually early and mid-30s. People come from all walks of life, from the Midwest farmer to prominent doctors and movie stars. It sure is nice to experience another country or beautiful tropical islands with people who you can really relate to. One note

group and what the reaction of the general public will be when you arrive at your destination. In most cases, the hotels, boats, planes or whatever are aware of the type of tour way beforehand — having been instructed by your agency, and the facilities totally checked out. Sure, there are stares occasionally, but I have never run into any embarrassing problems. Only once did a group run into difficulty, but it wasn't from being in a gay tour. Two years ago while visiting the country of Panama on a tour to the San Blas Islands, the island we were to stay on for a week was destroyed by drunken natives, and we were not able to fly out of the small airport. Instead (after much hustling by the tour agency), we went to a totally uninhabited island on the Pacific side of Panama. After some slight readjusting, we all had a great time, and people are still talking about this one.

My most recent trip was the first gay tour to the country of Ecuador, and was most enjoyable. People were extremely friendly and very helpful, and usually impressed by the group's behavior and comradeship. We received many favorable comments on our tour, from hotel staff, the staff on board ship, and the Ecuadorian tourist company which handled the details. I can only pass on to you my experiences in the gay travel world; I find it very rewarding and would like to see more participants.

I've done some preliminary investigation of some New York City agencies and the local ones in the Boston area

and good reviews from articles in *Playboy*, *Time*, and the *New York Times*. From that exposure they have come a long way in a short time in arranging gay escorted tours to unique places, such as the upcoming exotic trip to Tahiti and the rugged rubber raft trip through the Grand Canyon. The staff is very knowledgeable in the world of travel, and very friendly, and their brochures give you all the necessary information needed on their trips.

Perhaps one of the most interesting organizations in New York City is Gypsy Feet. Basically, it's a social club with annual membership fees. At present they have a membership of about 4,800 and their fees are increasing to \$30.00 per person. Men and women both are catered to by this organization; it has been in existence for about six years. It has been reported favorably in such publications as *After Dark*, *The Westsider*, and the *Mattachine Times*. Even the *New York Times* gave it a good review last year. The thing to remember is that Gypsy Feet is primarily a social club, but does offer its members a vast variety of travel arrangements. What does Gypsy Feet have in the works for the future? It will be expanding soon on a national basis with *The Grapevine*, a service to the gay community which will list any and all trips departing from several U.S. cities sponsored by gay groups, travel agents, etc. So we will keep our eyes open for the coming of *Grapevine*. The staff is extremely energetic and friendly, and is eager to please their members. Even such organizations as The Islanders use Gypsy to schedule special trips for their members, other than their successful ship cruises. So Gypsy definitely gets a B+ on my list, for dependable well-run tours.

Another agency out of New York City is OSSI Travel. I'd never heard of this organization before, so I've checked into it carefully. I found it to be interesting and unique. OSSI Travel maintains host sources (both in private homes and commercial gay establishments) throughout the world, although most their sources are in the United States and Western Europe. It is owned and operated only by gays (lovers of six years) who prefer to be called by the official name of "Dick and Lacy." Both are young and very helpful in planning the special individual tour. The main objective of OSSI is to first "Locate gay accommodations for gay travelers (men and women) throughout the world. Secondly, to create some of the most exciting all-gay tours you have ever traveled." They are also interested in hearing from people who would be willing to be a host to a fellow gay traveler. OSSI has been in existence for about three years, and reports are favorable on the agency. They offer many types of group tours and are in the process of planning a "Poor Boy" tour cross-country by bus which sounds interesting, although it depends heavily on the bus itself. Usually after a few days in a cramped bus people tend to clam up, but if the tour is handled well it could be a lot of fun.

Unfortunately, agents in the Boston area are not as diversified as those in New York, but Boston is quickly coming of age in the gay travel business.

Lambda Travel, a branch name for a straight agency, likes to deal more on an individual rather than group basis. The only group tour they've run was a package deal to San Francisco; if only

8 or 9 people sign up to go, you are on regular flights, etc. When talking with this agency, I got the feeling that they aren't too excited about handling gay groups but will make up individual packages; they have no escorted tours. I felt also as if I was being too shocking by asking for information on gay tours. Perhaps others of you out there have used this agency and have had a different experience; mine was somewhat cold. It is primarily a straight agency with some gay group work done under the name Lambda Travel.

New to the Boston scene is the well recommended FOREX Travel. The staff is very helpful and extremely friendly. More of an exclusive agency for the individual, it can arrange any type of package tour you wish. Tell them what your interests are and they can set you up. The staff is well versed in all types of travel, and most places have been totally checked out, and won't be recommended if found inadequate, unless meeting with the requests of the client. FOREX Travel has plans to expand gay group travel, but presently works on an individual basis. There are plans in the works for a newsletter announcing upcoming trips and events. They have a multilingual staff, and have house service for money exchange and international currency transfer available. A big plus for this agency is its promotion of the State of Massachusetts and Boston to gay visitors. It's time Boston was discovered and joined the ranks as a great gay attraction, and FOREX deserves a lot of credit for promo on "B-town" and Massachusetts. The only problem is that in Boston there are no gay hotels at which to stay. Perhaps someday soon we can have a well-run gay establishment in the Boston area such as they do in San Francisco.

Last on the list, and perhaps the most recommended in the Boston area,



Crossing the Equator (Rites of Rex), Galapagos tour, 1975

photo by Jay Aldrich

of interest: if you are going on the tour specifically as a sexual jaunt (and some people do), don't get too excited. Although the tours that I have been on were very free and open sexually, it depends greatly on the participants; usually after a day or two people tend to loosen up more and good contacts are easy. The friendships that are made are lasting and most groups keep in touch with each other by means of a newsletter and some even plan yearly reunions. I now hear from, and try to keep in touch with, over 200 people from various tours, and the feeling is very rewarding.

I was most fortunate to be the Naturalist/Lecturer for the first all-gay tour to the Galapagos Islands last year. A number of people worry about problems traveling with an all-gay

dealing in gay tours. My comments on these agencies follow:

Two of the most reputable agencies in the business are Hanns Ebensten Travel, Inc., and the Islanders Club group, both out of New York City. The Islanders Club sponsors mostly special ship cruises, but also runs frequent gay tours for members. The Islanders is primarily a social club, but does run good tours. It is basically a membership organization with a membership fee, but does allow some participation at times by non-members on a first-come basis. Membership in the club is only \$5.00 per person.

I am most familiar with Hanns Ebensten Travel, and Ebensten has the most to offer, and has been in the business the longest — he started gay trips in 1972. The firm achieved fame

By Jacqui Mac

One of the most important steps that the gay women's community is desperately, urgently struggling to take is to create its own culture independent of the "straight" society. All over the country restaurants, bookstores, recording companies, . . . owned/operated by and for women are slowly emerging.

Unfortunately, the number of successful businesses and non-profit organizations existing versus the hundreds of attempts being made, are few and far between. The common "road block" that all groups continuously face is that "almighty dollar."

One organization, however, that has been able to break through that "road block" and is a first for gay women in its profession is Today's Women On The Move, Inc.

One day in March of 1975, two women working in a travel agency shared similar (anxieties) dreams about (not) being able to get away from it all in a space where they could truly be themselves with other women. After much discussion they realized they had the tools right in their hands to form a travel bureau and social organization run by and for women. Their basic concept was to simply offer gay women a positive atmosphere in which to meet, have fun, and not feel degraded. As an organization WOTM would be committed to promoting communication, understanding and unity among



is Beacon Tours. As most of the other agencies, Beacon Tours specializes in individual tours, but will be running small gay group tours in the future. Close to 80% of the clients of Beacon are gay, and the staff is aware of this, and very helpful in planning a successful vacation for you. Beacon Tours will be moving into its new offices by June 1, under new management of Ms. Linda Carford.

The thing that impressed me the most was their efficient means of setting up individual tours. If, for instance, you were going to Kansas City for some reason, and wanted to have special arrangements made, Beacon Tours will investigate through outside contacts what is available to the gay traveler in that city, and give you some contacts who can fill you in on the gay scene. Their resources are unlimited. Most major gay facilities are totally checked out, and are only recommended if they meet Beacon's standards. Beacon is well aware of the rip-off resorts that are out to get your money only and offer you nothing in the line of good accommodations or services. The staff, after the upcoming move, will be expanded with gays and will cater to both men and women. Linda has been with the company three years and be the new owner; she is highly regarded for her expertise and extensive knowledge of the travel business and gay travel in particular. At present Beacon is getting into representing gay hotels throughout the Northeast such as Vermont, Newport, and the up-state New York area. Their resources are extensive, and they will find out as much information for you as you request and then some, and are constantly on the lookout for people who just want to capitalize on the gay community in the travel market. Carford feels that at present gay travel is in the infant stage, but it has come a long way, and that there are many



Shooting the rapids of the Colorado River on Hans Eberstein Travel, Inc.'s Grand Canyon Expedition in 1976.

establishments that would like to cater to the gay community that just aren't known. These are the areas that she is looking for to expand even further her resources for the gay traveler. A real feather in their cap was the successfully run Dignity Conference last year, and they plan to expand this capability of the business also for future gay conventions coming to the Boston area.

So, if you're planning a trip abroad or here in the U.S., give Beacon Travel a call. I know that you will find their staff helpful and if you ask for Linda, your requests will be met with friendly professionalism.

As for the future of the gay travel business, I feel strongly that the gay agents throughout the country should get together and discuss present problems of the so-called rip-off establishments, and how to refine the business itself. At the present time there are too many fly-by-night operations that bill themselves as gay tour agencies, and if you have been dis-

appointed in the past, try one of these mentioned in this article.

With the printing of this article, I hope that you out there who were thinking of gay tours either on a group basis or individual one now know who you can call and talk to with confidence. Listed herewith are the names and addresses of those agents that I recommend. If you have any specific questions regarding gay travel, you may write to me care of GCN. I also have an interesting slide presentation available to groups on gay travel from my most recent trip to South America and the Galapagos Islands. Sign up and enjoy, and happy traveling!

Hanns Ebensten Travel, Inc.  
55 West 42 St.  
N.Y., N.Y. 10036  
(212)-354-6634

The Islanders Club (social)  
322 East 34th St.  
N.Y., N.Y. 10016  
(212)-679-9434

OSSI Travel "Dick and Lacy"  
128 West 82nd St.  
N.Y., N.Y. 10024  
(212)-873-0175

Gypsy Feet (social)  
1621 Second Avenue  
N.Y., N.Y. 10028  
(212)-879-0175

Beacon Tours  
24 Tremont St.  
Boston, Mass. 02108  
(617)-742-1220

FOREX Travel  
Statler Office Building  
Boston, Mass. 02117  
(617)-482-2900 or 569-2900

Lambda Travel  
233 North Pleasant St.  
Amherst, Mass. 01002  
(413)-549-1256

*GCN welcomes reports from gay travelers about other agencies or agents that have proved useful.*

## Women On The Move

he many gay women of the world today, not only in the U.S., but Europe as well.

I first came in contact with WOTM in January when one day I received a call from them saying they had been referred to me and were looking for a gay woman disc jockey to gig at one of their weekend getaways. Due to conflicts in our separate schedules, there was no way for them to audition me ahead of time. Understandably so, they were very reluctant to hire entertainment over the phone. After several hours of discussion, I convinced them (and myself) that I knew what they wanted and I could do the job. For two months we negotiated by phone without either of us really knowing who we were dealing with. Yet it was their sincere, personal and professional approach that motivated me to accept the challenge of leaving my one and only audience (Boston), and confront over two hundred women from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. This particular Winter Weekend Getaway was to be held at the Olympic Hotel in the Catskill Mountains.

Because this organization was offering to what in my mind seemed quite an elaborate vacation plan for gay women, I was a bit skeptical as to what type of women would be there. I thought to myself: "I wouldn't be

surprised if they were all upper-middle class dykes." Such was not the case. There were women of all ages, races and socio/economic backgrounds. I could never fully describe to you the fantastic feeling I had to be in a resort hotel in the exclusive company of my gay sisters. Seeing is believing!

First off, the hotel, which was modern and decorated in bright, warm colors, was located on several hundred acres at the foot of the mountains. Inside the hotel was an Olympic swimming pool that was open all day and for a midnight swim. The package included four gourmet meals with at least three choices of everything on the menu. The food was excellent and seconds and thirds were more than encouraged. Not only that, but WOTM hired their own waitresses to serve the food and at night the liquor. One of two bars was open 24 hours if desired and one could walk freely throughout the resort with drink in hand. They also threw a Bloody Mary party and a wine-and-cheese party, all one could consume in two hours at no extra cost. (If you didn't like Bloody Marys you could have the drink of your choice.) In addition to swimming, there was skiing (with lessons if desired), horseback riding, massage by a gay masseuse, and a gay room that had pinball machines, pool and card tables. There was nightly entertainment of a band and myself playing

disco that lasted until the people couldn't. A couple of women had brought their guitars and at one point people just sat around the fireplace and sang.

Barbara Travers, President, and Sandy Quiros, Vice-President of WOTM, were on hand and visible constantly. From the minute you walked in, they were right there at the reservation desk to greet and check you in. And at the end of the weekend, an "evaluation" meeting was held to find out what women did and/or did not like about the weekend. On the whole, women were quite pleased, impressed and felt they had got their money's worth. And yes, the price which varied according to room preference, was very affordable. To me the weekend was a dream come true because I was able to work and be paid what my services are worth in an exclusive women's space.

In little over a year, Today's Women On The Move, Inc. has sponsored eight social events, ranging from weekend getaways, to boat cruises, to Halloween and Christmas parties. Barbara and Sandy have moved from working after hours at home to installing separate phones for WOTM in the office of their "other" travel agency. Membership is close to one hundred and their mailing list exceeds a thousand. They've started a newsletter and have doubled their staff even

though it is still part-time. I am happy to report that I was recently taken as their Boston area representative and permanent disc jockey.

A little over a year ago, Barbara Travers and Sandy Quiros took a gamble. Said Sandy: "We spent as much as we felt necessary to properly promote and advertise WOTM. On some events we have just covered our expenses, and on one event, we lost everything. I believe you have to spend money to make money, and in some instances you have to take a loss to achieve a greater gain in the future. This has been our premise, and I feel it's come through for us. I'd like nothing better than to reach a point where I would work full-time for WOTM and have a staff devoted to handling the many different interests of the women's community. Right now, I feel we're headed in the right direction in fulfilling a vast need in our community."

The immediate upcoming events are a gay cruise on the Hudson River, N.Y. City, June 5, featuring the disco sounds of myself, Jacqui Mac; and another Weekend Getaway in the Catskills, June 11-13, with Carol and the Burgandies and myself.

Those interested in more information on these events or being on their mailing list can call or write: Jacqui Mac, 56 Mystic St. #2, Arlington, Ma. 02174.



Cris Williamson: Helping Us Grow and Question

By Fran Epstein

This past weekend marked the first "successful" attempt of Artemis Productions (producers of women's music concerts) to bill a single act: Cris Williamson. They ran last fall's Women's Music Festival, a success all around. Tickets sales ran sixty short of a sell-out, but success is not measured as immediately as dollars and cents.

What is more relevant in assessing the value of a performance is how well the performers relate to their audience, whether people would dip into their pockets again to see a similar act, and, an even bigger question to be dealt with (especially for Artemis), is whether the performers they choose to promote really lend themselves to help further other women musicians and "women's music."

A more complex question is what is "women's music"? Is "women's music" simply music written by women, or should it have something to say about our lives? Does it have to be of a political or feminist nature? These are questions that can run around in circles and grow into greater confusion. So, I will stop the free thinking circles at this point to examine the confusion, which manifested itself about a quarter of the way through Cris' performance, and still hasn't let up.

First, let's consider the technicalities of sound, which was frustrating to many people in the audience. According to the soundwomen there were some difficulties due to the lack of preparation. It wasn't until the late arrival of the musicians that there was any surety of how many people were performing and with what instruments. The time factor and lack of advance knowledge made it difficult to set up a sufficient number of microphones. So, if audience listeners were complaining of inaudibility of instruments and vocals it was for just reasons. Usually, says Carol Bellin, one of the sound technicians, there are at least seven microphones used to amplify a drum set, and additional mikes on the electric amplifiers used for the bass and lead guitars. Sanders Theater also adds to the sound problems because of echoing in the balconies and muffling under the balconies. It may have been worthwhile to have arrived earlier to get a seat in the center ground-level section to avoid the sound distortion. (One advantage of sitting higher up

was the ability to view the added attraction of the couple making love on the floor towards the end of the concert. I missed seeing that, but several people commented that it was not what they expected or wanted to see.)

Another technical annoyance, which could be classified as lack of professionalism on Cris Williamson's part, was her inability to judge her distance from her vocal microphone. Her vocal volume had to be turned up higher than necessary to compensate for her movement as she played piano and sang. When she was able to center her powerful vocals, she drowned out the other vocalists.

At times I thought she was intentionally trying to out-do and discredit her accompanists. I quickly realized Cris' act showed no feminist consciousness (if she is a feminist it was well concealed). Furthermore, she showed a lack of respect for the extraordinarily talented June Millington, guitarist and singer (formerly of Fanny), and Jackie, bassist and cellist (to whom I apologize for not knowing her last name). To begin with, Cris referred to June as the "pineapple princess." Later on in the show Cris explained: "I usually don't like drummers because they're too egotistical, but June's not really a drummer so it's okay." (She really isn't.) Cris quickly redeemed herself by saying: "I'm not really a piano player either." (Just as close to the truth.) And after June performed her original song, which received three times the applause that most of Cris' received, Cris told June that "that's why the car door slammed in your face this morning." (June had a bandage over her right eye, and her accident was the reason for their lateness.) Finally we got to hear how Jackie begged Cris for three years to let her play with her, and how June "insisted" she was her drummer. I wasn't pleased with Cris' senseless banter, which went on constantly in between songs, breaking up any continuity in her musical performance, only to further discredit herself.

Stage presence can make or break a performer, but let's not overlook the musical creativity of Cris Williamson. There are a couple of Cris' tunes which I've been carrying around with me since the concert. Songs like "Filling Up and Spilling Over" and "Hurts Like the Devil" reveal the special flair that Cris has that can strike a spark in her listeners. Other songs didn't go



Cris Williamson (l.) and June Ellington (formerly of Fanny).

photo by Adrian Ruth

over with as much umph. I attribute this to repetition in musical themes and structure, and redundant lyrics. I can't recall how many songs contained the words "fire" and "desire." Cris just has to work a little harder to break away from some of these patterns. All of Cris' lyrics evolve around romance, and I think she can expand her ideas of relationships to something more than just images of heartbreak, abandonment, and love. Also, I didn't find the image of "cowboys and Indians merging in me" ("Sweet Prairie Fire") as one I'd want to perpetrate. The plight of American Indians is not to be romanticized.

This review is a harsh one, and I'm not trying to slam the closet door in

Cris' face. I'm only trying to establish some honest means of critiquing women's music. Now that we know some of Cris' problems, I will try to explain some of the reasons for them with what little I know of her background. Cris has been a relatively unknown club performer for the past thirteen years. Last fall's women's music festival put her in touch with women audiences, although she played to smaller women's audiences before.

Since then she has recorded an album with Olivia Records. She has also toured the West Coast with Meg Christian, Margi Adams and Holly Near. Only six months after her emergence in the women's music scene

(Continued on page 12)

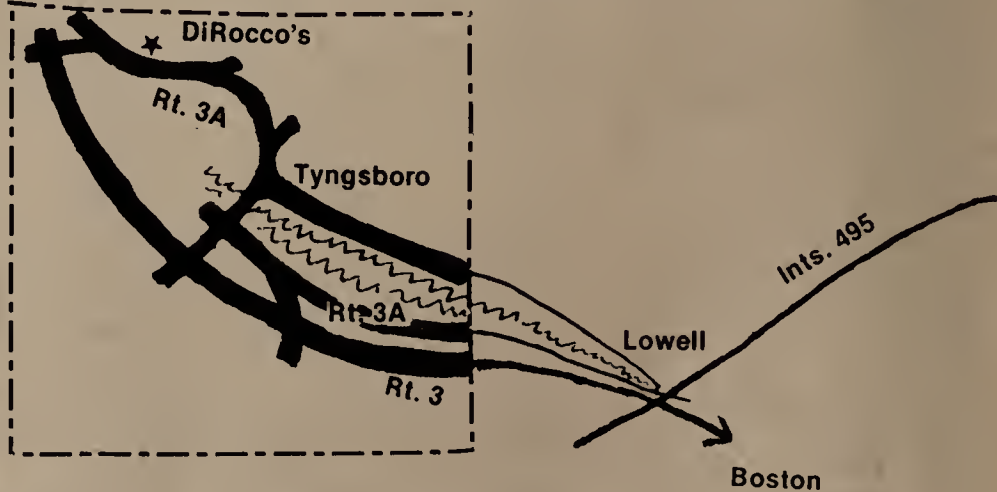
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# "Soft-Core Kid" Is Hard-Core Fun

A Review by James M. Saslow

It isn't every day you meet a woman who holds five grown men at bay in a sleazy-hip Soho porn studio, threatening them with blackmail for perverting the morals of a minor, and then excuses herself to brew them all "a pot instant." But then, "The Soft-Core Kid" isn't an everyday play.

Henna-haired, Yiddish-accented Sophie Levine would be a delightful achievement in any standard drawing-room farce. But there's an extra twist in her little saga: the nice Jewish boy whose honor she's protecting is gay. Sophie's righteous indignation at this discovery is quickly absorbed into her more traditional instincts. When she realizes what an eligible crowd her 16-year-old Freddie is hanging around with — a colonel, a priest, and a *doctah* — she knows exactly where her true duty lies: "Which one of you is going to support mein Freddie in the style to which I would like him to become accustomed?"

Oy. With lines like that, who needs a plot? But "The Soft-Core Kid" has an abundance of both — and a host of comically familiar characters to boot. This premiere offering of The Glines — New York's new gay cultural center — provides manic delight from beginning to end.

The characters are stereotypes, and proud of it. Part of the joy of this show is the smiles of recognition as each stock type steps onstage fresh from the streets we cruise and love. Where before this could you see a suburban chicken sporting a giant blue bandana (right rear), or a closety-but-affectionate Anglican with a red beauty mark who answers the parish phone "St. Timothy in Chains?"



The cast of "The Soft-Core Kid," first offering of the gay theatre in New York.

photo by Ken Howard

The audience's knowing laughter bears out the guiding belief of John Glines — founder of the center and director — that gay culture is ready for its own theatrical showcase. "Gay experience" is interpreted very broadly at The Glines. "The Soft-Core Kid" has no overt political heavies. Rather, it is revolutionary in its wholehearted zany surface. Sophie waxes wistful over her psychiatric interpretations of sonny-boy: "So he's in love with his father. That I can understand — so was his mother. He was a nice man who doesn't enjoy being dead any more than other people."

The entire cast was distinguished, as much for their energy level as for their considerable acting skills. Director Glines keeps his entire crew foaming at the mouth with chase scenes and rapid-fire hide-and-seek worthy of a faggot Feydeau. (Loveable Mr. Justin, the befuddled old landlord who resolves all the hysteria with a surprise offer, feels sorry for one character who's fled in confusion: "He's missing all the panic.")

Special praise for Mariam Hartz, whose portrayal of Mrs. Levine gives the play's improbable pretext a *messhuggineh* credibility. Virginia Aquino adds just the right note of tart social satire as the do-gooder ACLU liberal whose efforts to iron out the dilemma keep adding more wrinkles.

The Glines opened in late March, and has already scheduled poetry readings, art shows, and further plays. It's an admirable attempt to provide a home for artists crystallizing a new culture — and it's working. For more information, contact The Glines, 260 West Broadway, New York City 10013. (212) 925-2619.

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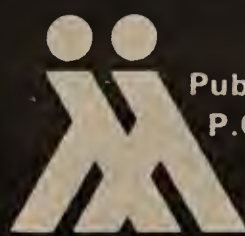
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# GPU NEWS

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Within a 48-hour period, two wholly separate sources approached me with the same request — my editor and a mutual Sporter's *habitué* both thought that *All The President's Men*, the Warner Brothers film now playing at Boston's Cinema 57, deserved attention in the local gay weekly. I apologetically explained to both parties that I doubted whether it had gay relevance.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein — portrayed in the movie by Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman — are more than mere reporters for a large daily, in this case, the *Washington Post*. They are people's advocates in the truest sense of the word, and the debt owed them by the American public is immeasurable. So in this sense, their efforts are not at all dissimilar to writing for a paper such as GCN.

*All The President's Men* is not Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Watergate but were Afraid to Ask. There is nothing in the film about Rosemary Woods, the 18-minute gap, John J. Wilson, or a

host of other figures who have probably been forgotten. What it is is an insightful look at how a newspaper is run, and two lowly reporters, varying in competence from Friday and Gannon to Laurel and Hardy, and their difficult assignment of convincing their editors and the public that they are not wrong.

Not too many people really understand what investigative journalism entails. It is one thing to be able to say to a friend that someone has Mayor White bought and paid for, but something else to try to prove it in print. Since printing unverifiable facts ruins a newspaper's foundation — its credibility — reporters for such papers as the *Post* are held up to an extremely high standard of accountability, something that shows throughout the film.

Robert Redford, employed at the *Post* for only nine months as Carl Woodward, was assigned to the paper's "police beat" when he was made aware of the seemingly routine B&E at the Watergate Hotel on June 17, 1972. Throughout the picture, one gets the distinct feeling that Redford is

over-hunched, somewhat overdramatic, and too predictable to be true. And from this viewer's gay standpoint, the man is highly overrated as a man as well as an actor.

I identified with Dustin Hoffman, whose portrayal of Carl Bernstein was somewhat more believable. He showed, perfectly and with style, how agonizing it is to obtain reliable sources, how exasperated a reporter can get with uncooperative people and false leads, and the need for breaching certain professional ethics in pursuing a good story.

The movie's producers have seriously downplayed Jason Robards, who, as Ben Bradley, publisher of the *Post*, was a theme unto himself. Bad reporters can be transferred or fired, but it was still Bradley's newspaper, and Bradley who had to "stand by the boys" (his words) in the face of being called liars by every member of the White House staff. Robards comes across as a complex, stern, yet thoughtful executive, not unlike Brian Keith, "Uncle Bill" of the "Family Affair" series. What an editor does not lose in

physical activity, he certainly loses in responsibility; the responsibilities of reporters and editors are clearly "separate but equal."

"All The President's Men" is well-done. It probably will not encourage the masses to flock to journalism school, as *Boston Globe* reporter Art Jones stated, because chances are the pressures of working in a big-city daily are as much of a turn-off to some people as they are an attraction to others. Sometimes you have to be a real masochist to survive. (And that's a thought equally applicable to outwardly heterosexual newspaper reporters and gay liberationists alike.) Go see it.

### Williamson

(Continued from page 10)

she got her first single billing and made more money than she'd ever made before (\$1,000 plus or minus \$100). That's made a big difference between the \$24 or \$40 a night gigs she was accustomed to. It was also an overwhelming way to be accepted, and perhaps that explains what many people thought to be Cris' overwhelming egotism Friday night. Maybe, after all the years of solitude within the straight club circuit, this sudden acceptance (playing to an audience of over 1,000 people) required some adjusting to, and obviously it wasn't easy for her. She had difficulty communicating with the audience — a lot of energy was lingering in the air near the end of the night. The two encores Cris played helped resolve some of that.

There are still unresolved feelings and issues about "women's music," and Cris Williamson is only one performer. Yet so many questions arise out of one concert and so I leave you in further confusion and thought: Will money and fame spoil our image of women's music by producing egotism and competitiveness among our musicians, which we abhor so strongly in regards to male musicians? Are women musicians responsible to use their stage presence power in ways that are positive representations of women? Is one thousand dollars too much money for one person to draw from the women's community for one night's work? How do we choose the women we decide to support? Any more questions?

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# Allyn Amundson: in memoriam

By Tom Myles

It was unusually warm for April on the evening of the sixteenth. The weather was as hot and uncomfortable as in midsummer. It was warm, crowded and uncomfortably stuffy in the small gallery at Boston Center for the Arts where the first posthumous exhibit of the works of Allyn Amundson is being shown.

I had not known Allyn, but almost everyone else had. The exhibit was put together by his friends. Amundson, the artist whose best known work is the cowboy mural at the 1270 Club, fell to his death from a fourth story window of a yellow brick building on Blossom Street in February, 1975.

Allyn came to Boston in 1963 from Baraboo, Wisconsin. His work had been exhibited in numerous one-man shows not only back home in Wisconsin but also in California, New York, and Washington, D.C. He was formally trained in painting, and he taught at the University of Wisconsin and at Michigan State University. He felt at home in Boston's South End. He lived at 33 Clarendon Street, right around the corner from the exhibit hall. His friends were numerous, including a group of writers and others who have put together a book of poems and

essays on him entitled *Night Blooming*, edited by the excellent poet Salvatore Farinella. The book includes many of Farinella's poems. (I am indebted to the book for much of this information on Amundson.)

At the time of his death Amundson was 40. He was born August 19, 1934, which made him a Leo. His friends describe him as a talker. He loved Sporters, and like the stereotype of artists, he drank too much. He was tall, blonde, beautiful physically. His lover Tom Farley remembers him as a summer person. He loved the outdoors and was drawn to the sun. (In fact, more than one poet compares him to Icarus, in mythology the son of Daedalus, who flew too close to the sun, when his wings melted and he fell.) He needed people around him constantly. Being alone made him nervous.

No explanation, rationalization or justification of his suicide was attempted by his friends who wrote about him in *Night Blooming*. Sal Farinella remembers his death as a shock of pain, but not a surprise. His friends worried, half-sensed his slow disintegration in a way that made it painful to be with him toward the end.

After he died Allyn's body was shipped back to Baraboo. Farinella explains, "we were here with the memories, the pain, the loss and not even a funeral at which to grieve." The friends conducted a memorial service of their own at one of the churches on Arlington Street. "Everyone felt uncomfortable in this proper place chosen to honor this wild man." Each took a turn either reading poems, playing a musical instrument or speaking about Allyn. Afterwards they all went out onto Arlington Street and gave 300 daffodils to everyone they saw, saying "This is on Allyn."

The friends who ran the memorial service got together again this year to honor Allyn by presenting an exhibit of some of his works. They selected 60 or 70 paintings and drawings which can be seen through May 3. The friends aimed to show as many sides of Allyn's talent as they could. Consequently, one finds it difficult when walking through the exhibit to believe that all these works are by one artist. Allyn used many styles and media: oil, sculpture, prints, collage, pen and ink and watercolor. Allyn's friend Eugenia Parry Janis writes that above all, Allyn was a draughtsman, and she is right. Allyn's best works are his drawings. He used silver point, a difficult medium because it does not allow the artist to erase an error. His drawings show a vitality that is often missing from completed paintings. (But this is not his fault. The same statement is often said about Rembrandt.)

Allyn's art is not fashionable in this era of non-representational and pop art, but it is clearly individualistic. His subjects are people, cats, eyes, wood, rocks and plants. As the exhibit is designed to show Allyn's versatility, it also gives the impression of a great deal of confusion on the part of the artist. Many styles borrowed from other artists can be seen in his works. As an

artist, I don't think Allyn ever reached the plateau of his talent, which was considerable. Ultimately he failed to create a distinctively personal style and let it bloom. There are many good works on exhibit, but no great ones.

Allyn's nudes offer a clue to what he may have thought about gay life. One or two drawings on display are of Roman Baths, a classical excuse to show some nude men sitting around together. Interestingly — and tellingly — Allyn eschewed the classical model of the male nude. His nudes are not young but middle aged, not boyishly thin but slightly overweight, not at their sexual prime but clearly past it. The image of gay men Allyn presents here is not an idealization. Gay men must grow old and lose their beauty, Allyn seems to be saying. Perhaps the drawing is a reflection of the artist on himself, a painful realization that he, too, was getting older and losing the grace of a Greek boy he had in abundance in his youth.

Allyn's other nudes are clearly representations of sexual fantasies. An excellent drawing entitled *Hot Ticket* shows a man nude from the waist down with his legs spread apart. Otherwise his is wearing leather motorcycle gear. The pose is alluring. There is an oil painting of a similar subject. The colors are dark; the body is not clearly represented but only suggested. The world the man stands in (in the picture) is not an actual one but one of the deep, dark, unconscious, or the sexual imagination. The painting is an image of desire of an imagined sexual object.

The exhibit as a whole is an interesting and unusual one. I sensed a very interesting, multi-faceted, alluringly individualistic person in the art, so I was not surprised to read descriptions of him as just that in *Night Blooming*. The exhibit is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 to 4, and by appointment, through May 3.

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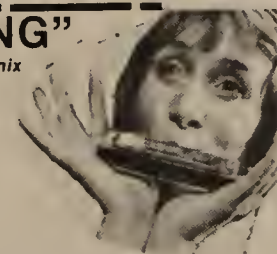


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## Page 14 • GCN, May 1, 1976



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Center, 243 W. 20th St., NYC 691-5460  
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**26 thru May 4**



## 26 mon

Cambridge — Folksinger Horizon will perform his original songs at the Harvard-Radcliffe GSA meeting, 8-10 pm, 1st floor parlor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard.

## 27 tues

Cambridge — Liz Fenton of Alice-Jamesbooks reads her poetry to benefit '9 to 5' at 100 Flowers Bookstore, 15 Pearl St., 8pm. Donation \$1.50. Info call 536-6002.

Boston — GCN open staff meeting, everyone is welcome, 6pm at 22 Bromfield St. Immediately following our meeting will be time to express your views about GCN.

Boston — Tune in WGBH-FM 89.9, 4pm to hear 'Gay Teachers, Gay Students: Homosexuality Goes to School.' Also to be aired in Amherst on WFCR-FM, but call station for time and day.

Boston — Gay Pride Week Planning Committee will have its first meeting today at 7:30 at Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles St. Come plan a parade.



## 28 wed

Boston — GMA meeting, 8 PM, 48 Revere St., Apt. 3, (yell at window).

## 29 thur

Boston — Gay Men's Center massage group meets at 7:30, 36 Bromfield St. Bring massage oil.

## 30 fri

Boston — U-Mass Film Series, "The Killing of Sister George," 100 Arlington St., 8 PM, free admission.

Amherst, MA — 'Gay Rites of Spring '76' at UMass is this weekend with disco, workshops and picnic. For info call (413) 545-0154.

Cambridge — End-of-the-year party with refreshments and disco music, sponsored by Harvard-Radcliffe GSA, 8-11:30pm, 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard.

Boston — The Gay Men's Center sponsors an Evening of Poetry. The format will be an open reading, with selected music following. Bring your poems. Readings limited to 15 minutes per poet. 36 Bromfield St., 8pm. Coffee and refreshments afterwards. Admission free.

Portsmouth, N.H. — SAGA pot-luck supper at 7:30pm; bring food and friends. Info write Box 1424, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801 or call Wayne 436-7196 or Lila 431-4350.

Couples group of MCC Boston. You do not have to be a member of the church to attend. This is for female and male gay couples. Social get-together. Bring your own beverage. Call 523-7664 for info.

## 1 sat

Amherst, MA — A Musical Revue in Vaudeville Form by Jason Harvey at Student Union Ballroom, UMass, 9:30pm. \$2. Disco will follow show.

## 2 sun

Boston — Dignity mass and meeting, 1:30pm, St. Clements Church, 1105 Boylston St.

Boston — Gay Hotline will hold training session for new phone counselors. If interested call Chris at 542-5188.

## 3 mon

New Haven, CT — 'Come Out Tonight,' gay radio from Yale, 9pm, WYBC-FM, 94.3, featuring Loretta Lotman.

## 4 tues

Boston — DOB sponsors rap on 'The Relationship Between Lesbianism and Feminism' at 7:30pm, 419 Boylston St., rm. 323.



CLIO.

Submit Calendar Items to Calendar Editor, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Ma. 02108, by noon on Wednesday prior to publication. Send items EARLY.